

**TESTIMONY OF KIMBERLY SUNDQUIST
PRESIDENT OF SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE, INC
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
RE: HRO Caucus Package Proposal No. 5
November 25, 2007**

Good Morning Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and distinguished members of the Judiciary committee. My name is Kimberly Sundquist and I am the president for Survivors Of Homicide, Inc.

I thank you for allowing myself as well as other general members of the public whether they be victims or not to express our concern and advice regarding the current CT laws that allowed 2 dangerous criminals to be paroled, and jointly commit one of the worst crimes imaginable to an innocent family in Cheshire, CT.

First of all, it is obvious to me as well as to so many others, that these 2 individuals should never have been paroled. When a person has 27 prior felony convictions, some of which include a previous home invasion where he admittedly watched a victim sleep, that is a red flag that this is not the most attractive candidate for parole. From what we understand, the DA, the Chairman of pardons and Paroles and The Commissioner of the DOC don't have access to each others files. The file of each criminal should be following them from department to department. This is a serious problem. If all these offices had a simple computer program that allows them to look into these offenders files, they would have seen that they were at risk to re offend. I believe the state needs this program. After the terrorist attacks on Sept 11, 2001, it was found that a contributing factor in the attacks was due to the lack of communication between the FBI and CIA. It was then that the lawmakers ordered that they connect their computers so they will be able to communicate to each other and possibly prevent other attacks in the future. If the Federal government can do this, so should CT. If we do not spend this money on this computer software, than we must spend it on the prisons so either way we will be spending the money. We have had a law requiring the Prosecutors to provide transcripts to the board of pardons and paroles on the books for the last 20 years and only now is it brought in front of the legislature with concerns it doesn't work. Well, I can understand this concern since it is not being executed at all while record inmates are still being released into the general public without the parole board having access to those transcripts.

The SOH board of Directors completely supports strengthening all laws to protect the safety of our families. As you know, CT already has a 3 strikes law but unfortunately it is not only underused, but we found it to be unused. The data shows that 30% of all prisoners released, weather it be to a half way house, via parole or any other way, re offended with in the one and a half year period of January 2006 and June 2007 creating a "**REVOLVING DOOR**" system. And this data shows only those who are caught and re in incarcerated. This percentage is unacceptable. California has a much clearer 3 strikes law in effect and although the initial prison population rose, it soon leveled off since most criminals on their "**2nd strike**" would simply stop committing felonies or the criminal

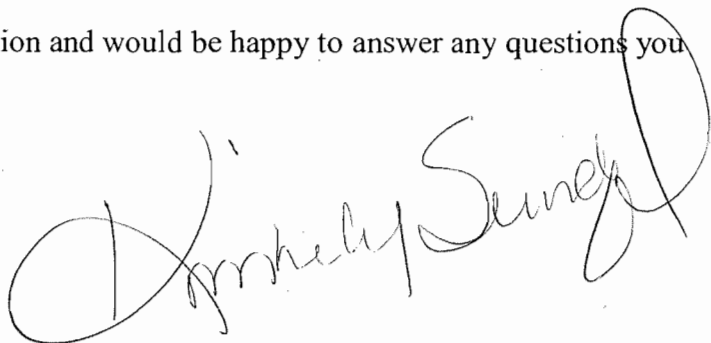
would move to another state that he or she felt was more criminal friendly such as Connecticut. When someone is paroled in good faith, then the system needs to hire better staff, made up of qualified individuals rather than former criminals themselves, so that they may be properly supervised and be held accountable for their actions. Better programs should be implemented to give these individual the help they need to give them a better chance at leading a crime free life. We also support any sort of devise to keep better tabs on individuals on parole or to half way houses so if they re offend, they are quickly apprehended. Public safety must be our number one priority. We can not parole criminals who are not worthy of such reward so that CT can manage prison over crowding and taxes.

We would like to see the "Petit Home Invasion Act" made law. This law would make sure ALL home invasions are treated as a violent offense. The second any one enters a home uninvited, we must assume deadly force will be used if confronted. We would like to see a line drawn in front of our door that is not to be crossed. The safety I should feel inside my own home should be considered sacred. No one entering a home un invited has a good intention weather it be stalking, stealing or physical harm, therefore I see no reason not to name any and ALL home invasions as violent.

We also support a persistent offender on line registry although this idea is not part of the current proposal. This is where all persistent offenders will register their residence so people in the surrounding area will know that they live near someone less than desirable. I have heard many use the expression that "If you chose a career in crime, we will provide you with the advertising." If Sierra Giorgi, who was a frequent visitor to the sex offender registry, had a persistent offender registry to visit, she would not have been stalked and her throat not slashed by someone who was previously in prison for prior violent acts.

My uncle was killed by a persistent offender in North Carolina on September 11, 2003. This is a man who was imprisoned and paroled repeatedly in 15 years by the time he took my uncle's life. My uncle was a handicapped man who lost his leg 2 years earlier due to a blood clot. He was minding his own business and in the middle of the night, while my uncle was leaving his place of business, he was shot so this monster could take the few dollars he had. After 3 years, it was noticed that the DA violated the rights of this offender and his step son and the pair were released with no trial and the charges dropped. History says this man would be back in prison by now, but I only hope it isn't because he committed another violent act. I know all too well what it is like for technicalities to occur leaving the public's safety at risk. It is unacceptable and I urge this committee to fill the holes that allowed 2 promising young women and their wonderful mother's violent and tortured death.

I appreciate your time and attention and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donnelly Seung". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.